

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION
P.O. Box 942883
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001



Date **May 31, 2007**

TO: **Responsible Agencies, Interested Parties and Organizations**

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT REPORT FOR PROPOSED NEW CENTRAL HEALTH
SERVICE CENTER AT CALIFORNIA STATE PRISON AT SAN
QUENTIN – STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER 2007012074**

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is the lead agency for the proposed new Central Health Service Center at San Quentin State Prison (SQSP) in Marin County. CDCR has directed the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

At the direction of CDCR, environmental consultant EDAW Inc., has prepared a Draft EIR (attached for your review). Under CEQA, the purpose of an EIR is to provide decision makers, public agencies, and the general public with an objective and informative document that facilitates a basic understanding of the proposed project and fully discloses the potential environmental effects associated with the construction and operation of the proposed project, including direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects. In addition, the EIR identifies alternatives that would reduce or eliminate the significant effects of the proposed project, feasible measures to mitigate those effects, and adverse impacts determined to be significant after mitigation. CDCR will use the EIR to obtain any necessary permits, agreements and approvals in order to implement the project.

Description of the Proposed Project

CDCR proposes to construct a new Central Health Service Center on approximately one acre at a site currently occupied by Building 22, which is located in the eastern part of the SQSP grounds. With the exception of the dungeon component and the original facade of the 1885 hospital, the project proposes to demolish Building 22, which has been classified as a Seismic Risk Level VI, which characterizes the building as an imminent threat to occupants and/or adjacent property. The project also proposes to construct a medical warehouse on approximately one-half acre in the central portion of the SQSP grounds. The project would consolidate the existing health service programs and buildings and associated support services at SQSP with a modern, safer, and adequately-sized facility. The health center and warehouse are being proposed to comply with U.S. District Court orders to upgrade and provide adequate medical facilities for CDCR inmates such that their medical care meets U.S. constitutional standards (*Plata v. Schwarzenegger*, 2005).

Public Review Period

The Draft EIR is available for a 45-day public review period that begins **May 31, 2007 and ends July 16, 2007**. To ensure that all environmental issues are fully identified and adequately addressed, written comments are invited from all interested parties. Written comments regarding the scope and content of information in the DEIR, or any questions regarding the DEIR should be submitted no later than **July 16, 2007**. Comments may be sent to:

Cher Daniels, Chief
Environmental Planning Unit
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
P.O. Box 942883
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001
SQSPDEIRComments@edaw.com
Fax# (916) 322-6763

Responses to comments received during the 45-day public review period will be included in the Final EIR.

Public Hearing

Public hearing on the proposed project and the DEIR will be held at the following time and location:

Tuesday, June 26, 2007
Starting at 4:00 pm
Larkspur City Hall
Council Chambers, 2nd floor
400 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, CA 94939

Individuals who require special accommodations (American Sign Language Interpreter, special seating, documents in alternative formats, etc) are requested to call Cher Daniels at (916) 323-0731 at least 10 days prior to the meeting to help ensure availability. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service at 711.

What should you do?

Please review the Draft EIR. We welcome your comments. If you have concerns regarding the proposed project, please attend the public hearing or send in written comments by mail or by email. Copies of the Draft EIR and all documents referenced in the Draft EIR are available for public review during regular business hours at the office of CDCR identified above (501 J Street, Room 312).

Copies of the Draft EIR are also available for public review at the following locations:

City of Larkspur
Planning Department
400 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, California 94939

City of San Rafael
Community Development Department
1400 Fifth Avenue (3rd Floor of City Hall)
San Rafael, California 94901

County of Marin
Community Development Department
3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 308
San Rafael, California 94903

San Rafael County Library
1100 E. Street
San Rafael, CA 94901

Corte Madera Public Library
707 Meadowsweet Dr.
Corte Madera, Ca 94925
415-924-3515

Larkspur Public Library
400 Magnolia Avenue
Larkspur, CA 94939
(415) 927-5005

Sincerely,

CHER DANIELS, CHIEF
Environmental Planning Unit
Office of Facilities Management

Cc: Amanda Olekszulín - EDAW